

# BUDGET & TAXES

For many reasons the two-year \$37.6 billion budget that passed in early September was something that I could not and did not support. The budget was formed largely behind closed doors between a small group of legislative leaders. Most frustrating was the fact that rank-and-file members of the legislature had less than a day to read the 730-page bill, which had no public input.



Senator Witkos speaks with Torrington Mayor Ryan Bingham.

The budget increases state spending by \$440 million over the next two years. State taxpayers will be responsible for more than \$1 billion in new taxes, including a 10% surcharge on the profits of some of our state's larger employers. In addition, the state hopes to bring in nearly \$100 million in fee increases. All license fees, from teachers and day care providers to hunters and fishers, have been increased.

What's most glaring about this budget is the fact that it empties the state's Rainy Day Fund and borrows approximately \$2.3 billion, including nearly \$1 billion to close out FY 2009. Because of this, it is already being projected that the state will face a \$3 billion shortfall in 2012. Thus, even if the economy does improve, the state will be starting off in a hole.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) recently came out with its 2009 legislative report card. This organization prides itself on being a bi-partisan environmental advocacy group that focuses on getting smart, sustainable environmental policies enacted in Connecticut. As someone who is committed to preserving the environmental and aesthetic beauty of our region, I am proud to have received a 100% rating by the CTLCV this year. One of the greatest assets of our region is the environment and I will continue to make sure we do everything we can to protect it.



Senator Witkos meets with small business owners to discuss the state budget.

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STATE SENATOR  
**KEVIN WITKOS**

★ ★ ★ 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ★ ★ ★

## 2009 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Serving the People of:

Avon ★ Barkhamsted ★ Canton ★ Colebrook ★ Granby ★ Hartland  
Harwinton ★ New Hartford ★ Norfolk ★ Simsbury ★ Torrington



STATE SENATOR  
**KEVIN WITKOS**



Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the state Senate. I am proud to serve the people of the 8th District and will continue to make sure your concerns are represented in Hartford.

The main responsibility of the General Assembly this year was to craft a new two-year budget. With the state facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis, the legislature had a golden opportunity to reform, or at least restructure state government in order to save taxpayers millions of dollars. This did not happen.

This update provides you with information regarding the state budget as well as some of the important issues that were acted upon this year.

You can also visit my website at [www.SenatorWitkos.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorWitkos.cga.ct.gov) to get updates on important issues and events taking place. There you can read news archives, watch video of Senate floor debates and press conferences, and you can participate in an interactive blog.

If you have any questions or concerns about these issues or any other issue, please contact my office at 800.842.1421, email me at [Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov), or write to me at:

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Thank you!

A handwritten signature of Kevin Witkos in dark ink.

Kevin Witkos

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Visit my website  
**SenatorWitkos.cga.ct.gov**  
for news, video,  
updates, events and more.

# 2009 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

We need to do everything we can to maintain a higher degree of security in and around school grounds. That is why I am pleased to report that at one minute before the close of the 2009 session, the House of Representatives passed my legislation that will require the state Department of Public Safety to notify local superintendents of schools with information relating to the release of a convicted sex offender who will reside, or intends to reside, in a community where their school is located. This straightforward legislation was the last bill to be taken up in the regular session.



Senator Witkos discusses state issues on Cablevision's *Meet the Leaders*.



Senator Witkos meets with town officials and constituents at the Simsbury Public Library.

## IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft continues to be a growing concern as criminals find new ways to steal personal information. As ranking senator of the legislature's General Law Committee, I helped craft a new law that increases the penalty for criminal impersonation and creates a new crime of unlawful possession of personal access devices. In addition, the new law specifically targets those who prey on older victims by increasing the penalties for identity theft when the victim is over age 60. The bill gives victims more legal leverage by extending the statute of limitations from two to three years and specifies that damages awarded to victims include any lost wages and any other financial loss resulting from the identity theft.

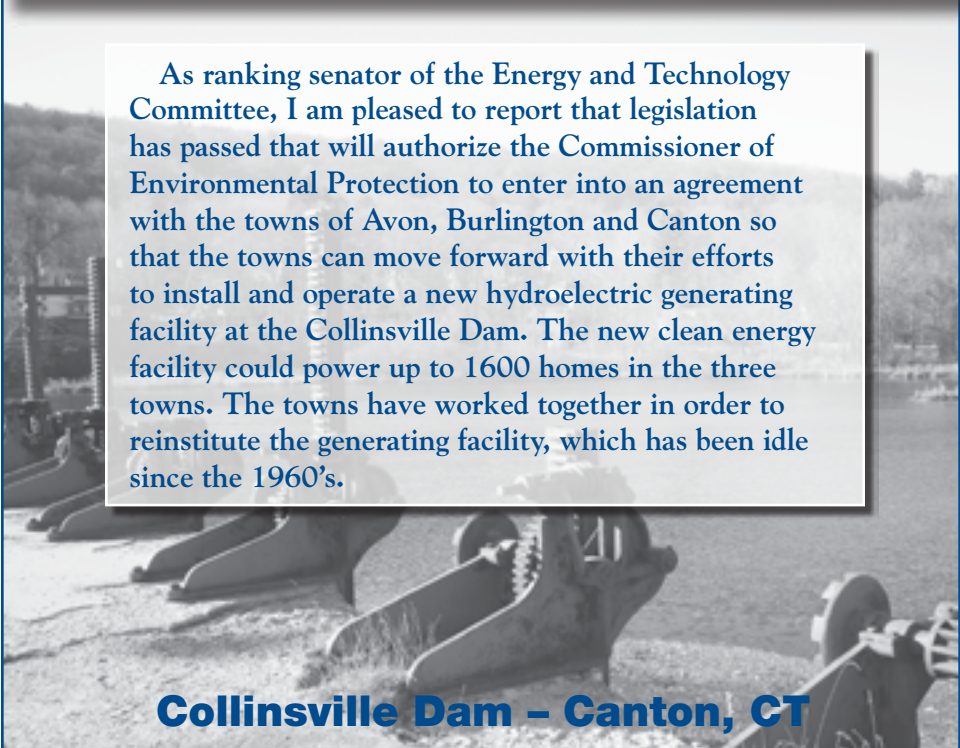
## AUTISM

Each year a growing number of children in the United States are diagnosed with autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The cost of treatment can put a strain on any family. That is why the legislature this year worked to make sure that families affected by this disorder could have access to insurance coverage. Public Act 09-115, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders, will provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism. This legislation takes a major step forward in caring for those affected by autism and ASD's.



## COLLINSVILLE DAM UPDATE

As ranking senator of the Energy and Technology Committee, I am pleased to report that legislation has passed that will authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to enter into an agreement with the towns of Avon, Burlington and Canton so that the towns can move forward with their efforts to install and operate a new hydroelectric generating facility at the Collinsville Dam. The new clean energy facility could power up to 1600 homes in the three towns. The towns have worked together in order to reinstitute the generating facility, which has been idle since the 1960's.



**Collinsville Dam – Canton, CT**